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So you've decided to grow Pea, Lentil or Fababean

FarmFacts

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A short list of cautions for the first-time pulse grower:

1. Soil residues of Assert 300-LC, Ally, Glean, Tordon 202-C, and Lontrel herbicides will damage pulse crops such as pea, lentil and fababean. Refer to the product label for up-to-date recropping information. When in doubt, a field bioassay is recommended on fields previously treated with herbicides.

2. Seed an easy to manage number of acres.

3. Lentil is best adapted to the Dark Brown soil zone. The pea crop is best adapted to the Black soil zone. In the Brown soil zone lentil should be seeded on fallow. In the Dark Brown soil zone pea should be seeded on fallow. Fababean is best adapted to the Black soil zone or under irrigation in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zone.

4. Demand an official germination and ascochyta test certificate for the lentil, pea and fababean seed you purchase. High germination and no ascochyta (or less than 1% are preferable.

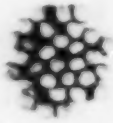
5. Tough seeds may be used as planting seed provided that germination has been checked.

6. Inoculate pulse seed with the proper strain of nitrogen- fixing rhizobia. Inoculant can be killed by heat or sunlight. It must be kept cool until used. If your inoculant does not include a sticker, use a sticking agent such as skim-milk powder mixed with water. Some calf milk replacers contain antibiotics which may destroy your inoculant's bacteria.

7. Seed early. This means before seeding your wheat. Pea, lentil and fababean seedlings have considerable frost tolerance. Short season pea varieties such as Princess can be seeded later.

8. Pulse crops have no salt tolerance.

9. Avoid poorly drained, cold soils. If you plant a pulse crop into very wet soil, the germinating seeds may starve for oxygen and rot.



Pea

Lentil

Fababean

10. If seeding into wet soil that has a tendency to crust, do not pack for at least 24 hours after seeding. Allow time for the germinating seedlings to absorb oxygen. (see No. 9 above).

11. Make packing, not harrowing, your last seeding operation. Pound any stones down into the soil.

12. Good weed control is the key to a successful crop. Select a clean field, free of perennial weeds. Use clean seeds and know which weeds to expect.

13. Air seeders can be used to seed pulse crops but must be used with caution especially if the seed is dry, brittle, and prone to splitting. Damaged seed may not germinate and will be more susceptible to root rot.

14. Extreme care should be taken in harvesting. A swather equipped with floating cutter bar and pick-up reel does the best job for lentil. For peas the swather should be equipped with vine lifters (pick-up guards) and possibly a pick-up reel.

15. Fababean and lentil store well for one year, maybe two, before changing color from greenish-yellow to orange-brown. Consumers dislike off-color lentil so speculating on the open market is more difficult with lentil than with other special crops. Pea will store for 2 or 3 years without loss in quality.

16. Get up-to-date information from the U-Learn Centre, Room B13, Kirk Hall, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W0:
    - Lentil Production in Western Canada
    - Dry Pea Production in Western Canada
    - Fababean Production in Saskatchewan

    and from Saskatchewan Agriculture, Publication Distribution Centre, Room B33, 3085 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 0B1:
    - Chemical Weed Control in Cereal, Oilseed, Pulse and Forage Crops
    - Legume Inoculation
    - Contracts for Special Crops
    - When to Swath and Thresh Special Crops
    - Saskatchewan Specialty Crop Contractors & Marketing Companies
    - Saskatchewan Specialty Crop Market Synopsis
    - Pea Varieties for Saskatchewan

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